

ALAN S. NICOLAY

On January 29, 1950, Alan S. Nicolay, long a member of the New York and Brooklyn Entomological Societies, died suddenly of a heart attack, at his home on 18 Duryea Road, Upper Montclair, New Jersey. Mr. Nicolay was born in Brooklyn fifty-six years ago and had lived in Montclair for the past twenty-seven years. My friendship with Mr. Nicolay dates back to 1917. On December 1 of that year he was employed by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, as a nursery inspector, and located in the Entomology Building on the Rutgers Campus at New Brunswick, New Jersey. He resigned on August 31, 1918 to enter the United States Army and after his return from France, he was re-employed by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture for a short period after which he entered the cotton goods business in New York City. While in the employ of the State of New Jersey, Mr. Nicolay compiled a digest of the laws and regulations governing the shipment of nursery stock from New Jersey to other states, that was published in January, 1918 as circular 19 of the Department of Agriculture.

During his residence at New Brunswick, we frequently inspected nurseries together and made many collecting trips to various parts of the state. Mr. Nicolay's entomological interests were always centered on the Coleoptera and he was a diligent collector of both specimens and literature of the groups in which he was interested. His first published paper appears to have been on the Mordellidæ of New York which was printed in the Bulletin of the Brooklyn Entomological Society in 1914. This was followed by lists of Maine and Long Island Buprestidæ and Cerambycidæ which appeared in the Bulletin in 1917 and 1919. In 1916 and 1917 his papers on "Rhynchophora in Maine" and a "Synopsis of the Anthophilax of North America" were printed in the Journal of the New York Entomological Society. After his return from France he wrote on "Observations made around Bar-Sur-Aube, France, with a list of the Carabidæ found there" that came out in the Brooklyn Bulletin in 1920.

After he had severed his connection with the New Jersey De-

partment of Agriculture, Mr. Nicolay and I continued our collaboration, the results of which were reviews of the genus *Buprestis* in North America, and of the group *Traches*; a synopsis of the *Cicindelidæ* and several genera in the *Carabidæ*. These papers appeared in the *Journal of the New York Entomological Society* from 1918 to 1934 inclusive. Although Mr. Nicolay was not particularly interested in the biology of insects, during 1918 we worked together on the life histories of *Colophya nigripennis* (*Jour. Econ. Ent.*, 11 (6): 467-471, 1918); *Brachys ovatus* and *Brachys ærosus* (*Can. Ent.*, 51 (4): 86-88, 1919); *Zeugophora scutellaris* (*Ent. News* 30: 124-127, 1919); *Chalepus rubra* (*Can. Ent.*, 50 (12): 398-400, 1918) and *Eumerus strigatus* (*Ent. News*, 30 (1): 27, 1919).

Mr. Nicolay was well known to eastern collectors of Coleoptera and museum curators. He was particularly friendly with the late Frank R. Mason of Philadelphia, whose collection of Coleoptera was willed to The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia following his death in 1927. Mr. Nicolay and Mr. Mason explored together the mountains of Tennessee and Virginia, the White Mountains of New Hampshire, Fairfax County, Virginia and numerous localities in New York and New Jersey. The results of these collecting trips were frequently summarized by Mr. Nicolay, in a humorous and entertaining fashion, before the members of the New York Entomological Society.

My own relations with Mr. Nicolay were happy ones. He was an agreeable collecting companion, with a strong sense of humor and we spent many pleasant hours together collecting in South Jersey. During the preparation of our systematic papers, we were advised on numerous occasions by the late Charles W. Leng, with whom Mr. Nicolay was in frequent touch. After 1935 our paths diverged and Mr. Nicolay and I met only infrequently at meetings of the New York Entomological Society. Although his publishing activities declined, I am sure that his interest in certain coleopterous groups, and in collecting, continued.

Mr. Nicolay was connected with Smith, Hogg & Co., of New York City in 1927 when that firm was liquidated and succeeded by the then newly organized Riegel Textile Corporation. Since that time he had been one of the most highly valued employees of

the company, and at the time of his death he was the company's representative in New York City and in the New England States for their textile fabricated products.

According to the "Montclair Times" of February 2, 1950, Mr. Nicolay was buried on February 2 in Mt. Hebron Cemetery, Upper Montclair, New Jersey, and is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mildred Potter Nicolay; two daughters, Mrs. Andrew B. Adams of Arlington, Virginia, and Miss Cornelia Nicolay of Upper Montclair; his mother, Mrs. William A. Nicolay, and a brother John V. Nicolay, both of Upper Montclair.—HARRY B. WEISS.

A MYSTERY CLEARED UP

In the March, 1949 issue of this JOURNAL, page 50, under the title "Entomologists are Human Beings," mention was made of an anonymous plea, circulated in the United States during 1920, by a group of young entomologists who called attention to the indifference of many heads of departments of entomology to the salary needs of their assistants. I had often wondered about the authorship of this 4-page anonymous circular and it was not until March 1949 that my curiosity was satisfied. At that time, Harry L. Parker wrote to me from France and said that the circular was conceived, instigated and written by George Barber and that the idea was enthusiastically supported by many of the entomologists around Arlington and Melrose Highlands. The printing was done by the Owl Press (located at Somerville, Mass.) a nighttime venture of Harry L. Parker and W. O. Ellis. Bill Ellis set the type and H. L. Parker pedaled the press. This private press venture was abandoned after a year of night work and after the owners had lost money on a small book of poems called "Ballads and Grotesques," by Harold Hersey, a brother-in-law of D. J. Caffrey. According to Mr. Parker's recollection, only four copies were sold.—H. B. W.